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MANCHEST
DOWNSIDE
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HIDEOUS uncertainty prevails among publishers all over Europe this week as the questions surrounding the future of William Manchester's Kennedy book, Death Of A President, remains unresolved.

"People have been ringing me up the whole time wanting to know what's going on," says Michael Sissons, of A. D. Peters, the literary agents who are handling the European rights of the book. "We very much wish that we were in a position to say something."

The continental publishers are in many cases very heavily committed — some have translations well under way, and others, like Michael Joseph over here, have already started setting the book in type.

SEPARATE ACTIONS

Technically, were Mrs. Kennedy to wish to stop publication or get cuts made in the book all over Europe, she would have to bring separate actions "from Helsinki to Lisbon," as Mr. Sissons puts it, in every country involved. But in practice the burden of decision lies largely with Manchester. If he chooses to abide by the American court's decision, his wishes will go with the European publishers. If he wants to fight on. he can probably do so.

One legal expert suggests that Mrs. Kennedy's complaint of "invasion of privacy" would not hold much water in the less emotionally-involved atmosphere of an English court, although the question of breach of contract is still very much an unknown factor.

Michael Joseph's solicitors have just received a "warning letter" from Mrs. Kennedy's representatives to which they have replied "asking for more details."